

BRIDGEPORT AS IT WAS

100-50-20-YEARS AGO

(Taken from the Files of The Evening Farmer)

One Hundred Years Ago.

WAR WITH SPAIN?

The Quebec Gazette of the 15th of February contains the following among other remarks on the recent correspondence of the Secretary of the State with the Spanish Minister. They are of a different complexion from former articles of Canadian manufacture.

"Will there be war between the United States and Spain? This will depend upon the spirit of Ferdinand the adored; that the Americans will keep what they have got, and ardently desire to have more, that they will trade where they can advantageously, and make their country a refuge for a population of nations, is not to be doubted. That they will fight rather than forego any of these advantages we have ample evidence, and we are greatly mistaken if the government and a great proportion of the population would not be glad of a declaration of war on the part of Spain. The best of the drum would immediately assemble a large army beyond the Alleghenies for an expedition to Mexico, nay, they would even enlist for Peru. The hordes of privateersmen, would glory in a war with Spain.

But will Great Britain interfere? Such an event no doubt would be unpleasant; but after the result of the last war, it is not to be expected, that even in that case, the United States would readily yield up, and of their present pretensions."

CONDEMNATION BY SPAIN.

(From The Norfolk Ledger.)
The schooner Edward Graham, Capt. Bissel, of and from this port, has been condemned, together with her cargo, by the Spanish government at Caraccas.

The first charge is suspicion of being bound to a port in possession of insurgents, though she was nearer the Royal Port, and Capt. Bissel and crew deposed that she was bound to that port. Another ground was that the vessel had no sea letter, although the captain deposed, and the fact is, sea letters are not furnished to American vessels.

With respect to want of a Consul's certificate, it must be recollected, that notice upon that subject was given only about a month since, and the Edward Graham left this port more than four months since. And the former effect of a consular certificate was only to refuse admittance of entry. But here the vessel was varied in and condemned, because she had not a paper, which was only important as to the right of entry.

It is to be hoped that the President will dispatch a force to that quarter without any loss of time, to ascertain what is intended by these authorities in committing acts of robbery upon the citizens of the United States. On opinion is that it is to be ascribed to corrupt agent, and not to the Spanish government.

Fifty Years Ago.

DISCOURSE ON MR. WILLEY.

St. John's church, yesterday afternoon was crowded with people to hear the discourse of Rev. Dr. Hallam, of New London, on the life and character of the late Rev. J. M. Willey. Mr. Hallam was intimately acquainted with Mr. Willey, and delivered an eloquent and affecting tribute to his memory. We hear that the discourse will probably be printed.

GRAND OPENING.

Ayres, the invincible boot and shoe man, in the Connecticut Bank Building, completed his enlargement on Saturday, and his new and most roomy and best arranged store of the kind in the city. In the evening he had a grand opening and gas light illumination. As was to be expected, he was crowded with customers, from the opening until the close. This is the same Ayres who once made us a pair of "Congress boots." We have never forgotten him. But, oh, and what a going to Congress in one thing, and wearing Congress boots is another and very different thing.

EDITING A PAPER.

Editing a paper is a pleasant business, if it contains too much political matter, people won't read it. If the type is too large, it doesn't contain enough reading matter. If the type is small, people won't read it. If we publish original matter, they damn us for not giving selections. If we publish selections, men say we are lazy for not writing more, and giving them what they have not read in some other paper. If we give a complete literary notice, then we are censured for being partial. If we do not, all the hands say we are mercenary. If we insert an article that pleases the ladies, men say it is a compliment to their wishes, the paper is not fit to have in the house. If we publish poetry, we affect sentimentalism. If we do not, we have no literary taste. If we remain in the office and attend to business, folks say we ought to mingle with the people. If we are not there constantly, they say we never attend to business.

PRESIDENT'S VETOES.

The Washington Chronicle has taken the trouble to hunt up the number of vetoes issued since the formation of the government. It is as follows:
By George Washington 2
By James Madison 6
By James Monroe 1
By Andrew Jackson 9
By John Tyler 3
By James K. Polk 3
By James Buchanan 1
By Andrew Johnson 2

Twenty Years Ago.

BIRMINGHAM'S WARNING.

Cops Must Not Talk on Beats
Supt. Eugene Birmingham last evening notified all of the night policemen, that for the future they must desist from carrying on conversation with civilians on their way to and from their posts when going out and returning from duty. This order was issued because Policeman Q. was reprimanded by Commissioner Baldwin Monday night for talking to persons

Lindley street; Adam Grohs, 203 North avenue; August Miller, 65 Deacon street; Henry Emt, Evergreen avenue; Aug. Miller, 153 Lindley street.

WILLIAM SEERREY, at 710 Main street. Endorsers are: John O'Shea, 39 Linden avenue; Stephen Ennis, 118 Lafayette street; Henry Johnson, 42 Gregory street; Patrick Brady, 27 Columbia street; John O'Brien, 175 Lexington avenue.

Licorice Trade of U. S. May Be Grabbed By Mongol Merchants

Kalgan, Mongolia, April 22.—Mongolia will probably supply the majority of the world's supply of licorice until the end of the European war and the restoration of Turkey's licorice trade. Exploring agents are going from Kalgan into various parts of Mongolia to contract for large quantities of licorice root.

Licorice grows in abundance on the Mongolian plains, but heretofore it has not been exported from Mongolia in large quantities because the Turkish product could be sold more cheaply. Much of the licorice is to be shipped to the United States, where the root will be boiled down and the licorice paste prepared. The duty on manufactured licorice entering the United States is so high that it is cheaper to import the licorice root and reduce the product in America.

Japanese Would Build Submarines Entirely Upon Own Territory

Tokio, April 22.—Kojiro Matsukata, president of the Kawasaki Shipbuilding Co. of Kobe, is going to the United States to open negotiations with American steel companies for a regular supply of steel for Japan.

Representing all the shipbuilding interests of Japan Mr. Matsukata will also visit England to negotiate with the British government for the abolition of the ban on steel shipments and on his way home he will visit Italy to study the building of submarines. It is hoped to construct Japanese submarines entirely at home, instead of depending on foreign countries.

CHINESE REBELS HAVE AEROPLANES

Peking, April 22.—Much uneasiness has been caused in Peking by insistent rumors that the revolutionists have constructed a number of aeroplanes in Yunnan province and have purchased flying machines from abroad, which they intend to use in attacking the government troops throughout the southern provinces. The central government already has several flying machines on duty, along the Yang-tze river, and has four machines at the aviation school near Peking.

Recently the department of military affairs has issued instruction to provincial officials concerning the protection of their districts against aeroplanes. The instructions provide that a search be made throughout the mountains and forests to discover possible hiding places for aeroplanes. It has ordered that watchtowers be built on high hills for the purpose of observing approaching aircraft, and roofs of all important buildings and all watchtowers are to be covered with cotton soaked with water to a depth of six inches.

SEES THE DUTCH IN WAR SOON.

London, April 22.—The Rotterdam correspondent of the Daily Mail cables that the crisis in Holland continues to cause great anxiety. It is understood, he says, that Germany has informed Holland that Great Britain intended to attack her and offered to send German troops to Holland.

GERMANS SEEK DANE'S AID.

Copenhagen, Denmark, April 22.—An employment bureau has been established here for twenty large factories in Germany. Contracts are made for two months with traveling and passport expenses. Wages are about 35 cents an hour, the working day usually consisting of from ten to twelve hours. The bureau has already secured 400 workmen.

Traffic in the westbound New Haven track near Auburn, R. L. was delayed for several hours when three cars of a freight train left the rails after "picking up" a loose rail.

SPRING FLOWERING PLANTS.

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Gifts

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ROMANCES OF THE RING

True Tales Of Hard-Hitting Heroes Of The Past And Present
(WRITTEN FOR THE FARMER)

THE PARSON.

"Who's that clergyman?"

The speaker was the elder William H. Vanderbilt, and as he asked the question he pointed to a man clad in frock coat and silk hat, with all the fixings, who was walking about with Dan O'Leary.

"He isn't a clergyman," scoffingly reported the manager of a stable of walkers and his name is Charlie Davies.

"Anyway," said the man of money, "he looks like a parson."

The conversation occurred shortly before the opening of one of those celebrated pedestrian contests which aroused so much enthusiasm in the '70s and '80s. Vanderbilt was very fond of the walking game, and promoted several matches between the famous pedestrians of that era. Davies was a well known figure in the sporting world, and had broken into the limelight by backing John Ennis against Dan O'Leary in a hundred-mile walk for \$500 a side. Later he was interested in many of the other big walking matches in Madison Square Garden and in Chicago.

The innocent statement of Vanderbilt's that Davies "looked like a parson" was overheard by a newspaper reporter, and the next day a well known story of the trifling incident. From that day Davies was known as "Parson," and he finally had to accept the sobriquet and make the best of it.

The spectacular and romantic career of Davies could be woven into a mighty entertaining tale that would fill a volume. The Parson was interested in sports of all sorts. While he made his debut as a promoter of walking matches, his greatest fame was gained as a manager of pugilists. Some of the greatest stars of the ring were at one time or another under the Parson's wing. He was a well known figure at the race track and at other sporting events, and was at times engaged in the theatrical business. He made and lost fortunes in his palmy days, but saved out of the wreck enough to keep the wolf from the door in his declining years.

The Parson was at various times the manager of the pugilist's estates of such stars as Peter Jackson, Joe Chynski, Tommy Ryan, Charlie Mitchell, Jake Kilrain, Jim Hall and Jack Burke, "The Irish Lad."

It was the Parson who first introduced John E. Sullivan to the stage. He managed the Boston Strong Boy when he played the leading role in "Honest Hearts and Willing Hands." The Parson could write a book about that experience alone. Sullivan was a mighty difficult fellow to handle, in those days, and the Parson and Duncan Harrison, John L.'s dramatic manager, had their hands full. The hit of the melodrama was when John pressed his hands to his forehead and registered deep emotion, saying, "Let me think! Let me think!" This wasn't intended as humor by the audience, but the audience always screamed. The Parson also staged Peter Jackson in "Uncle Tom's Cabin," and the Australian black made a big hit.

Peter Jackson was the greatest heavyweight ever, according to the Parson. The Parson managed Peter for five years, and despite the difference in the color of their skins, the Irishman and the African were fast friends. Peter was under the Parson's wing when he fought Jim Corbett in San Francisco about a year ago. The Parson was a sixty-one rounds to a draw. According to the Parson, Jackson would have won if he hadn't been injured by being thrown from a buggy a few weeks before the battle. Davies tried to get a postponement, but couldn't, and Jackson went through with it and got a draw.

The Parson was born in County Antrim, Ireland, not far from Belfast, but came to America at an early age. From the beginning of his sporting career as a manager of professional pedestrians he was a great favorite, and wherever he went he always had a host of friends.

The Parson managed Joe Chynski in the early '90s when the big blonde Jew looked like a coming champion. The Parson took Chynski to New Orleans at the time of the Corbett-Sullivan fight, and got a job for Joe to act as Jack Skelly's second in "Gentleman Jack's" fight with George Dixon for the featherweight title, this being one of the battles of the big Crescent City tournament. Chynski's insulting language to Dixon on that occasion aroused the ire of Tom O'Rourke, Dixon's manager, and Tom told the Parson that he would never rest until Chynski had been licked, and by a black man at that. O'Rourke was as true as his word, for Joe was afterwards whipped by Joe Walcott, the squat black welterweight.

As a manager of turbulent and unruly fighting men the Parson has had mighty few equals. The biggest and boldest of his charges were afraid of Davies, and what he told them to do.

They usually did do without any back talk. The Parson was perhaps the only man who ever tamed Jim Hall, the Australian middleweight. Hall was a hard man to manage, and when under the influence of booze he had an ugly disposition. On one such occasion in Detroit, when the Parson was his manager, the pugilist threatened to beat the Parson within an inch of his life. Jim hadn't been long with the Parson, and didn't know him, else he would have made no such threats. The argument took place in front of a bar, and when Hall was most threatening, the Parson reached over and picked up a small, sharp knife which the bar-keeper had just used to cut a lemon. Without a word Davies dodged the clenched fist of Hall and stuck the blade into the pugilist's neck. Hall was effectively sobered, and the bleeding boxer was led away by his manager to a surgeon. Hall carried the scar to his dying day, and he never afterward trifled with the Parson.

Parson Davies was the manager of Tommy Ryan when the Syracuse fighter landed his title against Mike Smith at Coney Island in 1895. The Parson posted a thousand dollars weight forfeit, and Ryan had a hard time saving it. Tommy was in poor condition when he climbed into the ring, and Smith had all the best of it for several rounds. In the eleventh round Billy landed a clip on Ryan's jaw that looked like a knockout wallop but the cops swarmed into the ring and Tommy was saved. After an interval of ten minutes the fight was resumed. Tommy seemed to have gained his second wind, and he was giving Smith a thorough drubbing when the harness bulls again interfered with the festivities in the eighteenth round. The Parson had entered into an agreement with Jim Westcott, Smith's backer, that the fight was to be called a draw in case of official interference, and so the affair went down in the record books as a draw battle. In reality, there were two fights, Smith winning the first and Ryan the second.

The Parson was the stakeholder in the famous old-time battle between Billy Meyer, the Stretator Cyclone, and Harry Gilmore, at North Judson, Ill., in 1888. Although this contest was staged in a village hall, it was for \$5,000 a side, and more than \$25,000 changed hands when Meyer knocked out the Canadian in the first round.

BUILDING SIDEWALKS.

One of the problems that the modern town has to meet, is the building of sidewalks fast enough to meet the needs of the community. High cost of labor and material, higher standards of public comfort, make it an expensive proposition. Most towns spread out now in a scattered way, and do not huddle together as they used to. It was comparatively inexpensive to provide walks for an old fashioned concentrated town, but very costly to build them past all the vacant lots found in the outskirts.

But there seems a certain injustice in spending a lot of money for road improvement, and doing little for the great mass of people who walk. The practical result in many places is to drive the pedestrian element to the middle of the street, where they suffer discomforts of dust, dirt and mud, to say nothing of having to turn out for every vehicle that passes.

The man who demands now the finest type of cement walk, was pleased as a boy when they ran a tar concrete walk past his house. His father probably thought it a great advance when they laid a cinder or gravel path. However, a town must keep up with the times, and it has to compete with its neighbors.

The great majority of places seem to be laying cement walks. It is costly, but probably pays in the long run if well laid. Many towns, however, have spent large sums on this construction, but owing to carelessness or dishonesty of contractors, they now see their costly cement showing many broken sections.

A town that builds walks to its outskirts with reasonable promptitude makes itself very attractive to newcomers. Probably every dollar spent that way comes back in the form of new taxable property.

RUSSIAN BEAR AT TOKIO.

Tokio, April 22.—A big live Russian bear has come to Tokio as a gift and tribute to Premier Count Okuma from the office of the Russian Volunteer fleet at Vladivostok. The premier sent the animal to the Zoological Garden, which is one of the best in the Orient.

Lieut. J. H. Hazen, of the Canadian Artillery, son of J. H. Hazen, Canadian Minister of Marine and Naval Affairs, has been killed in action.

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Lajoie Thinks Present Day Pitchers Don't Do Enough Work in Box

(Sporting News.)
"Baseball certainly has changed from the old days when I first broke into a major league," remarked Napoleon Lajoie during a fanning bee on the barnstorming trip. "Nowadays if a pitcher is asked to warm up he has to have a brand new ball or a slightly soiled ball will not do him. The ball must be brand new. When I was a kid with the Phillies the manager merely put his hand on the bag and handed out the first one he put his hand on when he wanted a pitcher to warm up. A pitcher, too, thinks he should have three or four days off after working a full nine-inning game."

"Oh, I don't know, Larry," replied Joe Ohl. "The old-time players used to get away with a lot of stuff. Look at Al Maul. If a manager told Al that he would have to pitch on the next day, Al would say that his arm was sore, but he thought he might be able to pitch in three or four days, say about Saturday."

"When Saturday came around and the manager asked Al if he were ready to pitch, he would say that he thought about next Tuesday he would be feeling fine. On Tuesday Maul would fail it off until Thursday. Then on Thursday, or more than a week after he was wanted by his manager to go out and twirl, he would be ready."

ANNIVERSARIES OF RING BATTLES

1912—Tom Gibbons outpointed Tommy Bergen in 10 rounds at New York. This was the start of the metropolitan ring career of the younger brother of the famous Mike. Tom was introduced to the New York fight fans by Michael with the statement that he possessed more latent ability than he himself did at the same stage of his career. Tom has been doing his best to live up to his brother's praise in the three years that have elapsed since then, and has made a pretty fair show. Tommy is a native

BRIEF NEWS NOTES.

Collector Malone of New York was ordered to grant clearance papers to the armed Italian liner Giuseppe Verdi.

An export duty from 3 1/2 per cent to 5 per cent, is proposed on diamonds in the budget of the Union of South Africa.

Italian prize commissioners have seized 29 Austrian ships and four motor boats.

Patrick Joyce, a "trusty" who escaped from Auburn State Prison several days ago, was arrested at Birmingham, N. Y.

By a vote of 87 to 87 the New York Assembly passed the bill providing for a State Board of Motion Picture Censors.

Thousands of persons are reported homeless as the result of a disastrous fire at Belgrade, formerly the capital of Serbia.

Capt. Geoffrey F. De Teissier of the Scots Guards, and Miss Katherine Seligman of New York were married in London.

Traffic on the Sixth avenue elevated north of 63rd street was suspended by a fire at 281 Sixth avenue.